

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10410 251532Z

61
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 241343Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2593
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
WRMJP/USLO PEKING 479
USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBSSY TOKYO
WRUHQHQ/CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD, UR, CH
SUBJ: SIGNATURE OF 1975 SOVIET-CHINESE TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: (A) PEKING 1348; (B) MOSCOW 8936

1. SIGNATURE OF 1975 SOVIET-CHINESE TRADE AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED
IN JULY 25 PRAVDA IN THREE BRIEF SENTENCES BURIED ON PAGE THREE.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT AGREEMENT SIGNED ON JULY 24 AND THAT
PRIOR TO SIGNING SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV RECEIVED
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PRC DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER CHEN CHIEH AND MEMBERS OF HIS

DELEGATION. NO MENTION MADE OF COMMODITIES INVOLVED, VALUE OR VOLUME OF TRADE OR COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS, NOR IS THERE ANY MENTION OF FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS DRAGGED ON FOR NEARLY FIVE MONTHS BECAUSE OF THIS YEAR'S DECISION TO VALUE TRADE IN WORLD MARKET PRICES.

3. SHORT ARTICLE IN TASS ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER VESTNIK FOR JULY 24 REPORTS ARRIVAL OF CHEN CHIEH IN MOSCOW BUT IS EquALLY UNINFORMATIVE ON THIS YEAR'S AGREEMENT WHICH -- AS REPORTED BY SOURCES BOTH HERE AND IN PEKING (REF-TELS) -- IS EXPECTED TO BE ALMOST SAME IN VALUE AS IN 1974. VESTNIK NOTES THAT TOTAL TRADE IN 1974 WAS 213.9 MILLION RUBLES. SOVIET EXPORTS (108.4 MILLION RUBLES) WERE SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS -- MACHNIERY, TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, AIRCRAFT, STEEL SHEETS, PIPE AND OTHER MANUFACTURES -- IN CONTRAST WITH SOVIET IMPORTS FROM CHINA (105.5 MILLION RUBLES) OF CONSUMER GOODS, FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS -- CLOTHING, FRUITS AND BERRIES, CHEESE, TOBACCO AND TUNGSTEN CONCENTRATE.

4. IF, AS EXPECTED, SOVIET-CHINESE TRADE VOLUME FOLLOWS SAME PATTERN THIS YEAR AS LAST IT WILL AMOUNT TO LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF TOTAL VOLUME OF SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE (1974 PERCENTAGE WAS 0.6) AND RANK ON APPROXIMATE LEVEL OF SOVIET TRADE WITH BRAZIL (202 MILLION RUBLES IN 1974.)
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